

FACT SHEET



Tru-Fit Battery Site Carroll, Iowa

December 1998

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will begin a removal action at the Tru-fit Battery Site in Carroll, Iowa. The agency found high levels of lead in the surface and subsurface soil, which present a potential threat of release at the site. Site activities to address the contamination are scheduled to begin the week of December 7, 1998.

The Tru-fit Battery Site is located west of Highway 71 on West 6th Street in Carroll, Iowa. The property is currently owned by T.J.'s Enterprises. However, T.J.'s Enterprises never operated the battery recycling operations which caused the hazardous substance release at the site.

SITE HISTORY

Tru-Fit Corporation obtained used automobile batteries from unknown sources and crushed them on site. Once crushed, the posts from the batteries were collected and the remaining parts were discarded in place. Investigation into the site's history has revealed no other potential sources of lead to explain the lead contamination found in the soil samples.

Tru-fit Corporation was incorporated in the state of Iowa in 1971. Tru-fit sold its business, including the property and equipment found at the site, to National Lead Products, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, in 1978. National Lead then moved the supplies and equipment from the Carroll site to their headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. National Lead sold the property to Pepsi-Cola Bottling, of Carroll, in 1982. In 1990, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Reorganized and T.J.'s Enterprises became the owner of the property.

In 1991, under an order from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), T.J. Enterprises hired a consultant to conduct a site investigation. Sample results showed high levels of lead in the soil, as a result of the former battery operations at the facility. IDNR referred the site to EPA in January 1998, for a removal assessment.

EPA conducted a site visit in May 1998, confirming that discarded battery parts could still be found in the surface soil. There are no barriers restricting access to the contaminated property or to prevent migration of the contaminants to the surface water near the site.

SITE ACTIVITIES

Automobile batteries typically have high levels of leachable lead which could potentially migrate into the groundwater. The soil on the property is fairly permeable and the groundwater is within five feet of the contaminated soil. Based, in part, on these findings, EPA has determined that a removal action is necessary at the site.

The proposed removal action will consist of sampling the surface soil to determine the extent of the contamination. Once the contaminated areas are defined, they will be excavated and treated to ensure that the contaminants will not leach lead. All hazardous substances removed from the site will be disposed of at an appropriate facility.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

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